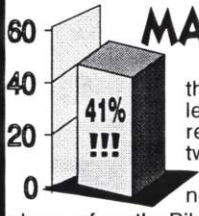
VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION / NEWSPAPER

VOL. 4 NO. 4 APRIL 2001

MORNING CALL WEB SITE DOES POLL ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE, 41% SAY YES!



April 3rd's Morning Call web site poll asked the question: Would you support State legislation permitting same-sex marriage? A resounding 41% replied yes! There were twenty-two comments also published. Of those, the majority (12) were positive. The negative ones mostly evoked selective phrases from the Bible.

Remember, this was a poll of the whole readership area of the Morning Call, from Lower Macungie to Pen Argyl. 41%!!! It doesn't do to say the Lehigh Valley is extremely conservative, 41% is better than NYC.

LV PFLAG GOES TO SCHOOL

Lehigh Valley PFLAG has begun a project to bring information about GLBT youth to public school teachers, staff and parents. Last month LV PFLAG president Don Kohn, went to Liberty High School with an openly lesbian volunteer, and an openly gay man who is a public school teacher, to speak to the staff in a one hour presentation about GLBT youth concerns. Look for an extensive article about this very important PFLAG project in next month's VFP.

BISHOP SPONG TO SPEAK AT MUHLENBERG

On Wednesday, April 18, at 4:15 pm in the Hoffman House at Muhlenberg College, Bishop John Shelby Spong of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark, NJ (retired), will address the subject of, "The Church and Homosexuality." Spong is a well known advocate of GLBT people. Later that evening, at 7:30 pm in the Trumbower Bldg., rm. 130, Spong will speak on "Why Christianity Must Change or Die."

PRIMARY ELECTION MAY 15

PRIDE FESTIVAL JUNE 16

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

DIAMONZ TO HOST BENEFIT FOR GAIL HOOVER'S CAMPAIGN SUNDAY APRIL 22

STONEWALL TO HOST BENEFIT FOR GAIL HOOVER'S CAMPAIGN SUNDAY APRIL 29

SEE DETAILS - PAGE 8

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AND PRIDE TO CO-HOST BREAKFAST

PRIDE LEHIGH VALLEY

The Allentown City Government's Human Relations Commission is currently planning a "Community Networking Breakfast," on Friday April 27. The purpose is to establish collaboration and build bridges between community groups with the goal of strengthening both the individual groups and Allentown as a city.

Pride of the Lehigh Valley President Allyson Hamm is a member of the AHRC and has supported the inclusion of Pride as a co-sponsor the event, along with last year's co-sponsors, the Allentown NAACP and Alianza Latino of the Lehigh Valley.

A CHORUS CELEBRATING ACCO WOMEN

ACCO IS HONORED BY BETHLEHEM YWCA

The YWCA of Bethlehem will honor ACCO- A Chorus Celebrating Women, with the racial justice community group / organization award for 2000. The YWCA awards this honor to "extraordinary people doing extraordinary work...to eliminate racism wherever it exists and by any means necessary."

The award will be presented at the annual meeting on Thursday, April 26, at the Cathedral Church of the Nativity in Sayre Hall, at 6:00 PM. To attend, contact the YWCA of Bethlehem at 610-867-4669.

YOU'RE INVITED

There will be a Primary Election Night Party at Gail Hoover's house in Allentown on May 15, after the polls close at 8 pm. Come and watch the election returns with bated breath to see if Gail and other pro-rights candidates win. Enjoy snacks and beverages and share in the excitement. Call VFP (610-432-5449) for directions. A small donation at the door is requested.

PA-GALA CANDIDATE GUIDES WILL BE MAILED IN EARLY MAY. BE SURE YOU ARE ON PA-GALA'S MAILING LIST.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basises listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8 , and asks that organizations requesting VFP to publish information maintain a similar policy.

PLANET Parenthood

edited by Emily Dugan

CAMPS FOR OUR KIDS

Written by Carolyn Lewis

For many of us with kids it's time to make arrangements for summer camp. Wouldn't it be great to find a camp specifically for our kids? Well, within one day's drive from the Lehigh Valley, there are two sleep over camps for kids and one for families.

CampOut at the Farm is a farm camp for kids from alternative families, in north central Massachusetts. Their literature says, "Through farm work and activities, we will create a sense of community where difference and diversity are celebrated and children can be themselves." The session fee is $425 and they offer scholarships and reduced rates. CampOut runs from July 23-27, you can contact them at (617) 869-7739 or at <www.farmschool.org/campout.shtml> or email <emmyyhowe@aol.com>. An email they sent me said, "No one is turned away because they can't pay."

Mountain Meadow Camp (which we've written about before in VFP) is for kids from GLBT and other progressive families. It is a two-week camp located in Newfield, NJ for kids ages 9-17. It runs from August 5-18. You can get more information from their website at <www.mountainmeadow.com>, phone : (215) 772-1107.

For the family experience (or you can go without your kids!), look into Camp Common Ground, located on Grand Isle in South Hero, Vermont. They run 2 one-week sessions, August 13-19 and 20-26. The fees are $420 for adults, $340 for teens, $295 for kids 3-12 and $75 for 1-2 year olds. There is a sliding scale fee program and reduced rates for teens who participate in a "counselor in training" program. Visit their website at <www.campcommonground.com> or call (800) 430-COOP. If you are interested in any of these camps, make arrangements soon, they fill up quickly.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG- Parents And Friends of Lesbians and Gays, meets at Northampton Community College in the College Center Building, room 134, the 2nd Sunday of each month at 3 pm. The next meeting, May 13, will feature guest speaker David Beverly from N.J., who will talk about staying connected to family while coming out.

SCOUTING FOR ALL

Scouting for All is an organization started by 15 year old Eagle Scout Steven Cozza to fight the anti-GLBT mission of Boy Scouts of America. To learn more about Scouting for All and its grassroots efforts to combat the BSA's discriminatory practices, check their website at <www.scoutingforall.org>.

GLORA EVENTS

The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown announces these upcoming social events:

April 21: Lesbian video night. Gather at 424 Center St. Bethlehem (UUCLV), in room 304, at 6:30 pm. Two films will be shown: "Inn Trouble" and "All Over Me." Snacks and soda will be served. $2 fee.

May 19: GLORA goes to "Dyin La Vida Loca," at Ramada Inn's Mystery Theater in Whitehall on MacArthur Road. Tickets: $34.95, dinner included with the play. Contact GLORA to reserve.

June 2 and June 9: GLORA potlucks.

To get further information about these events, write GLORA at PO Box 1952, Allentown, PA. 18105-1952 or email <GLORAinPA@aol.com>.

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Denise McKelvey is on vacation from writing her column this month. Below is a question from the VFP reader survey that we directed to a realtor in the GLBT community. We asked Gail Hoover...

Dear VFP: Thanks for the Valley Free Press and all the work. We don't know if this is a question you can answer but...

My partner and I have been together for 5 years and are currently living in an apartment. Our goal is to have our own house within the next 5 years but we are unsure of what we should do. We have a few questions that we would appreciate if you could answer for us:

Question #I: Is it harder for same-sex couples to apply for a mortgage?

Answer: No. Straight unmarried couples buy houses together all the time. It is not uncommon for a mother and daughter to buy a property. In my experience, people don't have a harder time because they are not a legally married couple. The most important thing is your "credit worthiness".

Q# 2:. Are there particular banks or lending institutions in the Lehigh Valley that are more supportive to same-sex couples and our endeavors to own a home?

Ans:. A good realtor can recommend mortgage companies that are best suited to handle your particular needs.

Q #3: What realty companies in the Lehigh Valley are gay friendly?

Ans: Most realtors work independently. Since most realtors work on commission they aren't concerned with your personal life, they want your business. But as with any business transaction, if you find there is a problem with communication or follow-through, find another realtor to represent you.

Q #4:. Do same-sex couples usually need to have more money to put "down" on a home compared to a heterosexual couple where the husband is usually considered the head of the household?

Ans: No. For all of the parties concerned, the seller, the realtor, the mortgage company, it is your income, your debt (how much you may have) and your overall credit worthiness that are the only things that really matter. If you are in good condition in those areas, your sexual orientation will not pose a barrier to buying your house.

GILL FOUNDATION SURVEYS GLBT VOTERS

The Denver - based Gill Foundation, a gay and lesbian advocacy group, surveyed more than 1,000 lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people nationwide to determine their level of political awareness and activism. Members of that community, the study found, pay attention to political goings-on and carry their knowledge to the voting booth. Ninety-two percent of the lesbian and gay community surveyed said they were registered to vote, and 52 percent said they vote in all elections. Thirty-four percent said they vote in most elections. Just over one-fifth said they were politically active.The foundation also surveyed 2,000 people in the general population, but the only comparable figure offered in its results was voter registration, 91 percent.

DIAMONZ STAFF PERFORMS

The staff of Diamonz invites you to a night of fun. See your favorite staff member on stage! Employee show Friday, April 27. Proceeds to benefit FACT. For reservations: 610-865-1028.

HOT NEWS

BINGO AT DIAMONZ FOR F.A.C.T.

Diamonz and FACT invite everyone to Bingo on Sundays at Diamonz. Cash prizes, progressive jackpots, free giveaways. A great way to have fun, win cash and support FACT. Game time, 6 PM.

LV GAY MEN'S CHORUS

In March, The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus performed a successful concert series at Odette's Cabaret in New Hope, PA. The chorus performed selections from their CD, "Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me". Their next concert, "North and South," will be on June 23 and feature special guest, The Hampton Roads Men's Chorus.

Visit the LVGMC's web site at <www.lvgmc.org> to see how to order your own copy of, "Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me," the concert schedule and ways you can help the chorus fulfill its mission to be a positive voice in the Lehigh Valley.

GLOSS EVENTS

GLOSS, the Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, reminds you that the next GLOSS game night will be on April 21. It will be at John's rather than Steve's (as previously advertised). To get further information contact GLOSS at 610-432-2966.

UUCLV SERVICES

The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem lists upcoming service themes:

April 15: "Drinking From the Living Stream" Reverend Sue Turner.

April 22: "Have a Good Day! or, Reflections on Life and Potatoes" The Reverend D. Bjorn Olson, Ph.D.

April 29: "Promises! Promises!" Reverend Sue Turner.

UUCLV is a "Welcoming Congregation.

MCCLV SERVICES

MCCLV Services:

April 13, Good Friday: "Shadows Around the Cross" Tenebrae Service at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

April 15, Easter Sunday: A Resurrection Celebration with special drama and special music. 5:50 pm in the Sanctuary.

The Metroploitan Community Church is at 424 Center St., Bethlehem.

ACC♀ SPRING SCHEDULE

ACCO, A Chorus Celebrating Women will sing a program of light and laughable songs at Godfrey Daniels on Thursday, April 19 at 7:30. Come and enjoy the multicultural songs of the Lehigh Valley's women's chorus at their best. To reserve tickets, call Godfrey's at 610-867-2390.

You can also hear ACCO at "Spring on 4th," in South Bethlehem, April 26, between 12:00 and 2:00 on the porch of Anna Mia Restaurant.

ACCO will perform their spring event, "Divas and Desserts" on Sunday May 6, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center St., Bethlehem at 7:00 pm. ACCO will sing music from many cultures and will be joined by dancers from HALA to perform bomba and other cultural dances. Roberta Meek will sing a set of blues and jazz tunes. And young dancers from the Quinlan Academy will join ACCO in Celtic songs. Tickets are $15 and include a buffet of extraordinary desserts and beverages. Space is limited. Call 610-760-1759 to reserve.

GLISN SOCIAL A SUCCESS

GLISN, the GLBT support network group at Dun & Bradstreet, organized an enjoyable social gathering on March 30. Well over 30 people attended. In addition to GLISN members, individuals from GLEAM at Merck pharmaceuticals, EQUAL! from Lucent and Agere, GLEE from Air Products, and people from Pride, PA-GALA, GLOSS, and even political candidates were there.

The evening started with delicious pizza at Mom's Pizza on 19th Street. From there the group walked across the street to Civic Theater of Allentown and watched Tennessee Williams' The Glass Menagerie. Those who attended will remember the powerful presentation.

Special thanks go out to Kerri and Ardyth of Mom's Pizza for hosting this community-building event, and Scott Snyder of Civic Theater for announcing the group during his opening curtain speech. Stay tuned for future socials.

B&N BOOK CLUB

The Barnes & Noble GLBT book club will be discussing "My Lesbian Husband," by Barrie Jean Borich on April 17 and "Fall on Your Knees," by Ann Marie MacDonald on May 15. Discussion begins at 7:00 PM in the cafe at Barnes & Noble. Beverages are provided free by Barnes & Noble.

PA-GALA'S STEVE BLACK TO HELP LOBBYISTS AT SPARC RALLY

PA-GALA Political Director Steve Black will provide information to help participants lobby for the Hate Crimes Bill's inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity at a rally on April 24, organized by SPARC , a state-wide coalition of civil rights organizations.For information contact SPARC representative Deb Sieger at 610-863-4235 or Steve Black at 610-863-4961.

GAY MEN OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY APRIL SCHEDULE

April 14- GMLV will present the film "Urbania." In the urban jungle of nocturnal New York, Charlie traumatized by the violent gay bashing of his lover Chris, has become a lost soul. With memories invading his mind, Charlie hits the street meeting a variety of strange storied characters. But he remains steadfast in his search for the man who ended his "happiness." A taut, emotional and surreal story of homophobia, loss and love adapted from Daniel Reitz's play "Urban Folk Tales."

April 28 - Game night. Lots of fun, conversation and laughs. Spend an evening with the guys. Bring a favorite game and play along.

GMLV meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday at 7 pm at UUCLV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem. Refreshments are served, a one dollar donation is requested. If you wish to volunteer for or support GMLV, contact director, Joe Canto or email <gaymenlv@hotmail.com>.

MORAVIAN COLLEGE GROUP HAS "JEANS DAY"

The Moravian College student group "Spectrum", hosted a "jeans day" on March 21. Blue jeans days have long been an activity of colleges to promote awareness of the GLBT community. Spectrum's aim was to encourage those who support the GLBT community to come out and show their true colors.

LV HOSPITAL WORKER SEEKS DP BENEFITS

Any VFP readers who work for Lehigh Valley Hospital and would like to see sexual orientation added to the non-discrimination policy and obtain same- sex domestic partner benefits: Contact VFP (liztrish@aol.com) to get in touch with a co-worker who is working on this effort.

CALENDAR

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, Rehearsals, Thursdays 7-10pm at UUCLV Bethlehem, 610.760.1759
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids
ASC- AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
As If Productions- Documentary Film Makers
BEARS- Lehigh Valley Bears Club, meets at Stonewall, 1st Sat.-monthly, 8pm. <lvbearclub@hotmail.com>,610-767-3433, PO Box 1396, Allentown PA 18105-1396
BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay &Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm.
Bowling- Thursday Nights, 8:00 pm, Parkway Lanes, 610-691-8303
CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
Enigma Players- 610-432-0706
EQUAL! at Agere 610.712.5532
FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
GLEE-gay and lesbian empowered employees at Air Products
GLASS-at Lehigh Univ. 610.758.3469
GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA18105-1952, email- GLORAinPA@AOL.COM
GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 Volleyball,Tennis, Racquet Ball . 610.434.2966.
GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd and 4th Saturday Monthly 7pm UUCLV, Bethlehem, 610.954.7775
HMFF- Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11am, Open Space Gallery,931 Hamilton St., 610-791-0716.
Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians 1st Monday monthly 7pm Trinity Episcopal Church 2nd Floor Chapel, 44 E. Market Street Bethlehem. 610-758-8642
KS- Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Fridays at UUCLV, 6:30pm, Contact: Chris at 610-868-0248 or Donna at: 610-998-0607
Liberty High School- Mission Equality :Gay /Straight Alliance
LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, Rehearsals Tuesdays,Wesley Un. Meth Church, Beth. 610.366.3320, lvgmc@hotmail.com
MCC - Metropolitian Community Church LV,424 Center St. (UUCLV), Bethlehem,6 pm Sundays, 610.954.7775
NCC- Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, Meetings every Monday fron 4pm to 6pm at CC114 (Cohen Lounge),, College Center call 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531
19th St/Civic Theatre - 610-432-8943
Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College
PA-GALA - PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Voter's Information Booklet, and Political Lobbying)to become a member send $20 to: PA-GALA, P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 (610.432.5449)
PFLAG - LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 2nd Sundays 3pm at NCC, College Center Rm 134 610.967.5219
Pride - LV Pride , (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <lvpride@hotmail.com>, <www.pridelv.org>

APRIL 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV **AS IF FUNDRAISER**	2 RAA	3 LVGMC GLOSS	4 **PRIDE BOARD MEETING** MCC SERVICE	5 RAA GLOSS Bowling	6 KS	7 WDIY GLOSS **BEARS**
8 **PFLAG** MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	9 RAA	10 GLOSS LVGMC	11	12 ACCO Bowling RAA GLOSS 19th Street	13 KS 19th Street	14 GMLV movie WDIY GLOSS 19th Street
15 MCC WDIY UUCLV HMFF 19th Street	16 RAA	17 LVGMC GLOSS **B&N BOOKCLUB** **Reading PFLAG**	18 **PRIDE MEETING** **SPONG**	19 Bowling RAA GLOSS **ACCO AT GODREY'S**	20 KS	21 GLOSS game night WDIY GLORA
22 **Gail Hoover benefit at Diamonz**	23 RAA	24 GLOSS LVGMC	25 **ALIX OLSEN AT QUEST**	26 RAA Bowling GLOSS ACCO **ACCO CONCERT**	27 KS **PRIDE & AHRC Breakfast** FACT benefit at Diamonz	28 WDIY GLOSS GMLV game night
29 **Gail Hoover benefit at Stonewall**	30 RAA		19th Movies all month			**GMLV GAME NIGHT** ACCO CONCERT

MAY 2001

VOTE FOR GAIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	RAA	1 LVGMC GLOSS	2 **PRIDE BOARD MEETING**	3 RAA GLOSS Bowling	4 KS	5 WDIY GLOSS **Lavender Lens 2 at TO** BEARS
6 **Lavender** MCC **Lens 2** WDIY **at TO** HMFF UUCLV	7 RAA	8 GLOSS LVGMC	9	10 ACCO Bowling RAA GLOSS	11 KS	12 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
13 **PFLAG** MCC WDIY UUCLV HMFF	14 RAA	15 **PRIMARY ELECTION AND PARTY AT GAILS** B&N BOOK CLUB	16 **Reading PFLAG**	17 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	18 KS	19 WDIY GLOSS GLORA- Dyin La Vida
20 FACT MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	21 RAA	22 GLOSS LVGMC	23	24 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	25 KS	26 GMLV WDIY GLOSS
27 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	28 RAA	29 LVGMC GLOSS	30	31 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	19th Street Movies 1st two weeks of May	

JUNE 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 RAA GLOSS Bowling	2 GLORA KS Potluck	WDIY GLOSS BEARS
3 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	4 RAA	5 GLOSS LVGMC	6 **PRIDE BOARD MEETING**	7 ACCO Bowling RAA GLOSS	8 KS	9 GMLV WDIY GLORA Potluck GLOSS
10 **PFLAG** MCC WDIY UUCLV HMFF	11 RAA	12 B&N BOOK CLUB	13 **Reading PFLAG**	14 Bowling RAA GLOSS ACCO	15 KS	16 GLOSS WDIY
17 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	18 RAA	19 GLOSS LVGMC	20	21 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	22 KS	23 GMLV WDIY GLOSS **LV Gay Men's Chorus Conce**
24 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	25 RAA	26 LVGMC GLOSS	27	28 Bowling ACCO GLOSS RAA	29 KS	30 GMLV WDIY GLOSS

QuEST- Student Group at Lafayette College Farion Center Box (429, Easton, PA, <Quest_Lafayette@hotmail.com>
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs., Episcopal Church 16th and Turner, Atown
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., PO Box 3624 Atown, PA 18016 610- 821- 2955 renlv @ ren.org
Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533 or 670.8029
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469
Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S.5th st. Atown 610.435.1587
Softball- (Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
TST- Touchstone Theatre, 321 E. 4th St. Beth. 610-867-1689, touchstone@nni.com
Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449
VYH-Valley Youth House weekly Group counseling for troubled GLBT youth 610-432-6481
WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Saturday 7:30-pm Assorted Women, Sunday 6:30pm- This Way Out - 610.694.8100

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL GAY/ STRAIGHT ALLIANCE 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS
KINDRED SPIRITS- FRIDAYS
BINGO FOR FACT AT DIAMONZ- SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL - TUESDAYS & SATURDAYS
RAINBOW BOWLING- THURSDAYS
19TH ST MOVIE- MOLENA - APRIL 12-15
GMLV MOVIE NIGHT - APRIL 14
19TH ST MOVIE- POLLOCK - APRIL 14-22
READING PFLAG & B&N GLBT BOOK CLUB- APRIL 17
PRIDE MEETING - APRIL 18
BISHOP SPONG AT MUHLENBERG- APRIL 18
ACCO AT GODFREY'S - APRIL 19
GLORA LESBIAN VIDEO NIGHT - APRIL 21
GLOSS GAME NIGHT- APRIL 21
19TH ST MOVIE- MEMENTO - APRIL 21-29
QUEST - ALIX OLSEN AT LAFAYETTE - APRIL 25
GAIL HOOVER BENEFIT AT DIAMONZ - APRIL 22
ACCO SPRING ON 4TH - APRIL 26
FACT BENEFIT AT DIAMONZ - APRIL 27
AHRC & PRIDE COALITION BREAKFAST - APRIL 27
19TH ST - YOUNG GIRL & MONSOON - APRIL 21-29
GMLV GAME NIGHT - APRIL 28
GAIL HOOVER BENEFIT AT STONEWALL - APRIL 29
19TH ST MOVIE- IN THE MOOD - APRIL29- MAY 6
19TH ST MOVIE- PANIC - MAY 5 - 12
LAVENDER LENS 2 AT T.O.- - MAY 5 -6
ACCO - DIVA'S AND DESSERTS - MAY 6
LV PFLAG - MAY- 13
PRIMARY ELECTION - MAY 15
ELECTION PARTY AT GAIL HOOVER'S - MAY 15
GLORA - DYIN LA VIDA LOCA- MAY 19
GLORA - POTLUCK - JUNE 2
GLORA - POTLUCK - JUNE 9
GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT- JUNE 23

THE INFORMATION IN THIS CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CALL TO CONFIRM. TO POST INFO CONTACT VFP - 610-432-5449 EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

CIVIL UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

To announce your Vermont Civil Union or to get information on how to get a Vermont Civil Union (step by step), email Valley Free Press at <liztrish @aol.com> or phone 610-432-5449.

19TH STREET MOVIES

19th Street Theater in Allentown announces this movie lineup for April and early May. Call 610-432-0888 for show times.

Molena- April 12-15: The circumstances of a beautiful widow in Sicily and the 13 year old boy who helps her.

Pollock- April 14-22: Story of action painter Jackson Pollock.

Memento- April 21-29: The story of one man's bid to avenge his wife's murder with the added complication of short term memory loss.

The Young Girl and the Monsoon- April 27-30: Written and directed by Muhlenberg College Theater professor James Ryan. A man's efforts to forge a connection with the women in his life.

In The Mood for Love- April 29-May 6: 1962 Hong Kong, relationship between two neighbors whose spouses are having affairs.

Panic- May 5-12: With William Macy, Donald Sutherland, John Ritter, Neve Campbell, Tracy Ullman and Barbara Bain. Seemingly average guy, is actually a hit man.

BECOME A SUPERVOTER

A supervoter, is a registered Democrat or Republican, who votes in every General Election and every Primary. "Independents" can't vote in primaries, so they can't be supervoters.

Candidates and elected politicians can easily get your voting records. Not only are they available for anyone to look at at the voter registration bureau, but they can be obtained in computer programs that show the voter records, by address, of everyone in the State. Most senior citizens are supervoters. That's why there is always so much focus on Medicare and Social Security in elections.

Not only do candidates seek your vote if you are a supervoter, but they are much more likely to listen to you. If you sign a petition, write them a card or letter, or even write a letter to the editor, politicians will look up your voter status. If you are a supervoter, they will pay attention to you. If you aren't registered or rarely vote, they don't care. Why should they? You don't vote anyway. You are like a kid in a candy store with no money. Contrast that with a supervoter, who is like someone who buys every time they come into the store and pays with cash. Who would you take time to serve?

If you tell candidates you want equal rights and you're a supervoter, they will listen. You can start your supervoter career with this Primary (May 15). All you have to do is vote. PA-GALA will mail you a candidate guide to see who will support your rights.

If every GLBT person in the Lehigh Valley were a supervoter, we would have equal rights. It's as simple as that.

PRIDE MEETING AND CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The LV Pride Festival committee needs your help. Support the festival by attending the meeting on Wednesday April 18, 7 pm at UUCLV, 424 Center St. Bethlehem. Committee Chairs will explain how you can get involved. The following committees need help, ideas, and expertise:

Parade- Float design talent, individual / group marchers, and musicians / marching bands needed. **Film Festival** - Recommend, select, review, and reserve appropriate movies. Sell tickets, lead discussions, and book venues. **KidSpace** - Guide kids in arts and crafts, face-paint, run games, or offer new ideas! **Grounds-** Sell tickets, food and beverages, and other items at the events. Set-up beforehand and/or clean-up afterwards. **First-aid** - Nurse or medical professional needed. **Poster** making and distribution. **Fund-raising** - Share ideas or help out with phone calls. **Website** - Maintain, expand, improve the site.

PRIDE CO-HOSTS WITH NCBI

The National Coalition Building Institute is planning a series of forums for the purpose of educating and stimulating dialogue. The first forum will focus on leadership - what are the characteristics of an effective leader? The second will focus on relationships; what is required to have healthy relationships with people across race, gender, religion, and other identities. During the third they'll deal with the "controversial issue" process. The forums are free and open to the public. Dates and times TBA. Pride of the Lehigh Valley and the Allentown Human Relations Commission, have both been invited and will be co-sponsoring. For information about NCBI, check the website: <www.NCBI.org>.

Editors note: VFP congratulates the important efforts of Allyson Hamm, President of Pride and member of Allentown's Human Relations Commission, on her sucessful efforts to link LV Pride to other local human relations organizations.

ANOTHER VIEW
BY WILL FETTERMAN

IN OR OUT

GMLV recently showed The Broken Hearts Club during one of the group's meetings. There was a painfully real scene where a younger man is quietly confronted by a slightly older gay man. The older man says to the younger guy, "You're not out!!! You're still in the closet." Without missing a beat, the younger man immediately goes on the defensive, saying things like: "Yes I am, and besides, it's nobody's business to know if I'm gay, and I don't need to go around telling everybody....." and on and on. Of course, later on in the film, he finally comes to realize that he isn't really out. Eventually he tells his family, and becomes more involved and connected with the gay community through friendships and work-related activities.

I'm hearing that denial speech, almost word-for-word, a lot here in the Lehigh Valley. And I know, because I once used the same speech. If you are still giving that speech, do yourself a favor and rent the movie. Learn from that character, see what he does, and use him as a role-model to get more honest with yourself, and to get out of your own denial.

Here's another one. This example is taken directly from real-life. A gay man, my age, asked me if I'm out. I said yes. He then asked me if I've told my family. I said yes. Then the roles switched. I asked him if he's out. He said yes. Then I asked if he's told his family. Without missing a beat, he immediately began a nervous laugh and quickly started saying, "No, no, I couldn't do that!" Guess what? He's not out. He's only fooling himself. Again, I know, because I used to be the same way.

If you are still giving that speech, do yourself a favor and rent the movie.

April 2001 marks the fifth anniversary of my truly being out of the closet. In April 1996 I finally told my family the obvious, something they knew for years. I'm gay. At the time I was 39 years old. I should have done so 20 years before. I now see that it isn't so much I lacked the courage so much as I lacked the support system to do it. In the spring of 1996, I was in a gay and lesbian group which helped me come to terms with low self-esteem, internalized homophobia, guilt and denial, and models for healthy relationships. It was through this support system I learned I had to "come out," for myself, not anyone else.

That sounded very strange at the time. But I was beginning to learn about "emotional boundaries" in the group. When I told my family, they had the usual prescripted denial lines. Thanks to the group, I learned to keep the focus on myself, and the fact that I could only say my piece.

I can't change anyone, but I can change how I relate to other people, and what I find appropriate or inappropriate behavior from others. I can be myself. I don't need to compromise who I am. I can learn to be honest with myself and others. By doing those things, I can build more truthful relationships.

Finally, a third type. This is the guy who says that he came out years ago, and it's nothing he has to be concerned with anymore. Well, if reading this little essay brings up some anger or anxiety, you're in the third category. In my own personal experience, as well as the shared common experience of other gay men, coming out is not a once-and-done thing, it is an on-going process.

Life keeps giving us opportunities. You can continue to grow, to continually come out; or you can stay static, or you can go backwards into isolation and the closet. The choice is up to each individual.

After many great articles, Will Fetterman has decided it's time for him to stop writing Another View. He will be missed by many loyal readers. Maybe after a vacation he'll come back, but for now, next month will be his last column. VFP editors thank Will for all his excellent work.

LAVENDER LENS 2 ENCORE

If you haven't seen Steve Libby's movie "Lavender Lens 2: Your Friends & Neighbors," there will be an encore presentation on May 5 and 6 at Theater Outlet at 8pm. Ticket price: $6.00. To benefit AS IF Productions and Theater Outlet.

189 people responded to the VFP Readers survey. Here are some of the WTA questions they asked:

WTA: (4 people wondered) Why is Liz Bradbury's column called "A View From A Dyke?"

Liz answers: Actually Trish thought of the name. Knowing my attraction to puns she figured "A View From A Dyke", was a humorous twist on the title of Arthur Miller's play "A View From A Bridge," which was also made into a movie. Others have made similar puns or twists on that title: Comedian Bruce Vilanch calls his Advocate column , "A View From A Blonde." Bette Midler penned a piece called, "A View From A Broad," (a play on words meaning both a foreign country and a slang term for woman) There was even that James Bond movie, "A View to a Kill" (kill also means a creek or stream, like Bushkill Falls). It's said that puns are the lowest form of humor, but they still make people smile... nudge, nudge, wink, wink.

We worried a little over using the word dyke since it is often used as an insult. But the thing is, it's not derived from some other word that means something bad. Check a dictionary, under the word dyke you'll see *-slang: a lesbian, (origin unknown)*.

Unlike the insult faggot, which means a bundle of sticks used to start a fire - and hearkens directly to the days when gay people were burned at the stake, the word dyke is only offensive because of how it's said, not what it means. Sometimes the best way to combat an insult is to take possession of it. A good example is the gay community's commandeering of the pink triangle, which began as Nazi symbol of degradation and extermination and now adorns nearly every visual representation of gay and lesbian rights, pride and celebration.

WTA: Please update that article about local Colleges, Universities and other businesses - whether they have actually gotten GLBT benefits or not. **Survey Respondent**

Dear S.R.: OK, see an update on the colleges on page 7.

WTA: Unfortunately, most of the topics that are directed to gay men readers assume that most of us are effeminate. I like MEN- not sissy Queens. We're not all Barbara Streisand and Terms of Endearment fans. It's this stereotype that hurts any type of effort to improve gay rights. **Survey Respondent**

Dear S.R.: Since you brought it up...we see by your survey that you only regularly read one or two columns. You seem to seldom or never read any of the columns that are frequently about gay rights. There has never been a column about Streisand or any non-GLBT theme movie in this paper, however there have been columns about music, art, plays and many other topics. The editors of VFP do not consider people who like music, art and plays, "sissy queens." We disagree that gender identity or expression should be hidden.

VFP has had articles written by local men who have stood up to corporate job discrimination, put their jobs on the line to protest the Boys Scouts, and risked certain arrest in organized protests against anti-gay church policies. At the risk of "labeling," VFP considers those guys "MEN." More specifically we consider them, and many of the other local guys that VFP articles are about, very brave and worthy of our highest esteem, regardless of gender expression.

A VIEW FROM A DYKE
BY LIZ BRADBURY

Gail Hoover is running for Allentown City Council. We don't have to wonder whether Gail might support us, she has been supporting the GLBT community for more than a decade. A few examples: Gail's had a booth at every Pride Festival, she's been a volunteer for PA-GALA, she's organized teams for the FACT Summer Games.

Most Council Members are over 70 and retired, because City Council is a time consuming, thankless job, and you have to campaign for a year to get it. Ask yourself, would you do it? Well Gail's willing to work to get elected and then do the job. She's been a volunteer government appointee on HARB for three years, she's a crime watch board member, and has worked with countless other main stream community organizations, including everything from Meals on Wheels to the PTA (she has a daughter in Allen High School). She wants to make Allentown a better place.

In this City Council election there, are 7 people running on the Democratic side and 3 running as Republicans. There are 4 slots open. Incumbent (anti-gay) David Howells is running again. Anti-gay Emma Tropiano is also running again...and one of the main ways people get elected around here is name recognition. There are many reasons why Tropiano should stay off City Council. Here's just one: she lied to PA-GALA about co-sponsoring the anti-discrimination amendment so she would get our votes, then reneged on her promise after the election. I won't even go into the fact that she fought against the landlord licensing bill because her rental properties had hundreds of code violations.

AND IF THAT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS.

The Primary is May 15, vote for Gail. Even if you don't live in Allentown, please support her campaign. If you consider this race from just the viewpoint of civil rights (which is not all Gail is about), look at it this way; with Bush in the White House, we aren't going to get any Federal rights in the next four years. But with Gail as an Allentown City Council Member, we have an excellent chance of passing equal employment and housing rights in the City of Allentown. It will be the first pro-GLBT legislation to ever pass in the Lehigh Valley. Not only will every person who lives in Allentown be legally protected, but so will everyone who works in the City. And if that's not you, it's one of your friends. **And after Allentown gets those rights, there will be a domino effect on Bethlehem, Easton and other parts of the Lehigh Valley. Do you have a better candidate to financially support?**

Remember the 1998 City Council meeting, when all of us were there, presenting our clear and compelling arguments? Remember the 200 people raising their hands in the audience in support of the rights? Remember City Council doing nothing because none of them had the guts or ethics to step forward and second the amendment that Frank Concannon introduced? Remember how they said nothing...and we just had to walk out with nothing!?

Communities that have equal rights get them because pro-rights elected officials make the laws. There is no other way to get legal protections in PA. We have to do it one candidate at a time. That's why Gail's campaign needs the support of everyone in the Lehigh Valley.

If you can volunteer or donate money to Gail's campaign, or work at the polls, email: <liztrish @aol.com> or call: 610-432-5449.

UPDATE ON LOCAL COLLEGES DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS

Muhlenberg and Moravian have had them since January 2001. Lafayette has had them for several years.Though Cedar Crest College's Michael Traupman indicated in November 2000 that the proposal would be put to the Board of Trustees for consideration in February 2001, it was not. Traupman told VFP today that he is confident they will be passed and will be in place by Jan. 2002. VFP will continue to follow up.

STOPPING ABUSE IN SCHOOLS
BY TRISH SULLIVAN

Anti-gay abuse occurs daily in Lehigh Valley schools. In some instances anti-gay hate language is used not only by students, but by teachers and coaches. But did you know that teachers, counselors and principals jeopardize their licenses in Pennsylvania by failing to address this anti-gay abuse? The Pennsylvania Administrative Code (Title 22 § 235.4 (b) (4)), which regulates the conduct of educators, expressly prohibits discrimination based upon sexual orientation.

It is unacceptable for educators to dismiss the use of hate-language by saying students don't understand the words they use. Deliberate indifference to anti-gay language or actions is discrimination prohibited by the PA Administrative code.

If you are a student who is being discriminated against, or you know someone who is, the single most important step in fighting abuse in public schools is this: Report the abuse to the school principal. If you are referred to someone other than the principal, make sure there is written documentation of the complaint, including a copy to the principal, so even if the principal is not Involved in the discussion, the principal has received notice of the abuse. Whatever happens, be sure the principle gets the complaint, because the principal is required to take action, while teachers and even guidance counselors are not required to do so at the same level.

CHECKLIST FOR ACTION
-HAVE A SUPPORT SYSTEM
-DOCUMENT ABUSE
-REPORT TO PRINCIPAL
-REPORT TO SUPERINTENDENT

Documenting instances of abuse displays a level of seriousness that requires a more serious response. Write down the key facts detailing the abuse: who, what, when, where and witnesses. Do not be cryptic, use real names, make the incident completely clear. Written statements by witnesses are very powerful. After you talk to the principal, document the details of the talk and the principal's response. Always keep a copy of every document.

Give the principle some time to respond to your complaint. But remember there are principals who are homophobic or who may not take anti-gay abuse seriously. Giving the abuser a 'talking to' or changing the class schedule or seating assignment of the abused student is an insufficient response. In fact, moving a student who is being abused out of a class, or in some cases into another school is clearly blaming the victim, rather than addressing the problem. A parent conference, combined with detention, suspension, or sometimes expulsion of the student committing the abuse is probably more appropriate.

When a principal responds insufficiently, it is wise to move up the ladder to the school superintendent. Principals may express heartfelt concern, and promise investigations and actions, but may actually do nothing. Taking the matter outside the principal's office to the attention of the principle's "boss" may be the only way to get results.

Most gay or lesbian adults recognize that it is difficult for teens to report instances of abuse. Retribution can come from school officials, classmates and parents and the results can be devastating. It is essential that a teen has an emotional support system in place before exposing himself or herself to potential retribution. If you need support contact the Valley Free Press (610-432-5449 or liztrish @aol.com). We will help you. LV PFLAG (610 967-5219) may also be able to help.

While this article focuses on anti-gay abuse, we acknowledge that many other groups suffer from hate and violence in the public schools and we hope this information will also benefit them. The VFP welcomes the opportunity to work with other Lehigh Valley groups on the issue of hate and violence in our public schools, where all children deserve to be safe.

Information taken from: Stopping the Anti-Gay Abuse of Students in Public High Schools - A Legal perspective by Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc.

POP QUIZ

1. What country has the largest number of HIV / AIDS cases in the world?
A. Namibia B. South Africa C. U.S.A. D. Haiti

2. TV's "Queen bee of the whole (Big) Valley" was_____.
A. Barbara Stanwyck B. Joan Collins
C. Noelle Neill D. Joan Crawford

3. What state will probably be the next to grant non-discrimination employment rights to its citizens?
A. Oregon B. Maryland C. Delaware D. Ohio

4. What director discovered Divine and Rikki Lake?
A. Andy Warhol B. Rosie O'Donnell
C. John Waters D. Judy Dench

5. The Netherlands has just confirmed same-sex marriage. What country will probably be next?
A. France B. Norway C. Iceland D. Belgium

6. What European city recently elected an openly gay mayor?
A. Madrid B. Paris C. Warsaw D. Lisbon

7. "Further Tales of the City" will run on TV in May on_____.
A. Showtime B. HBO C. PBS D. FOX

8. In "Further Tales," the Rock Hudson character will be renamed _____.
A. Dash Riprock B. Cage Tyler
C. Tom Slick D. Rip Torn

9. Actors filling roles in "Further Tales" will include:
A. Joel Grey B. Laura Linney
C. Tony Randall D. Elizabeth Taylor

10. Liz Smith reports Jodie Foster is pregnant with her second child. What is her first child's name?
A. Stephen B. Chet C. Annabelle D. Charlie

1.B 2.A 3.B 4.C 5.D 6.B 7.A 8.B 9.A+B 10.D

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We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were legally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, age, handicap or disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

GLASS at Lehigh University

Safe-Space at Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Wome

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

GLB Student Union at NCC

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Lucent

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere-Cedar Crest

6th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together)

AIDS OUTREACH

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Service Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity-Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theater

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP

QUOTE

From a recent "Dear Abby":
To Senator John F. Campbell, Windsor County, Vermont, Clerk, Senate Judiciary Committee
(From: Dear Abby)
Re: Vermont Civil Unions
Dear Sen. Campbell

Thank you for the clarification. Regardless of what you call it, your landmark civil union law is sensible and forward-thinking. I wish other states would follow your lead and allow same-sex couples who wish to be officially committed to each other, the privilege of doing so. It poses no threat to "traditional" marriages and promotes responsibility and accountability between the partners.

BOTH DIAMONZ AND STONEWALL ARE PLANNING FUNDRAISERS FOR GAIL HOOVER'S CAMPAIGN FOR ALLENTOWN CITY COUNCIL.

DIAMONZ is planning a gala show full of surprises and the talents of the area's best drag show performers, for Sunday evening, April 22, beginning at 8pm. There will be raffles and a Chinese auction with prizes for the winners. Come out and join in the fun and support Gail's campaign.

STONEWALL is planning a special fabulous drag show featuring the talents of the the areas best drag show performers, for Sunday, April 29. There will be a Chinese auction with great items to win, surprises and thrills. Don't miss this chance to have a fun time and support our first community candidate.

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Free Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VFP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.